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**September 7, 2004  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SILVER SPRING MAN SENTENCED FOR  
THREATENING LABOR OFFICIALS**

Greenbelt, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Melvin Eugene Gibbs, Age 60, of Silver Spring, Maryland, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge David Faber to serve 12 ½ months in prison for sending threatening letters to officials and representatives of the Department of Labor.

According to the statement of facts presented at today's hearing, Gibbs had been in a long-standing dispute over worker's compensation funds with the Department of Labor. In November, 2002, Gibbs sent a letter to Elaine Chao, Secretary of the Department of Labor, in which he described his inability to control his mental health and made threats against the Secretary. After FBI agents met with Mr. Gibbs to dissuade him from these types of communications, Gibbs again faxed and mailed threatening letters to various employees at the Department of Labor.

As some of the threats appeared to include local federal judges, a visiting judge from West Virginia, Chief Judge David Faber, was assigned the case. Judge Faber found that the defendant was competent to stand trial and then proceeded to accept Gibbs' guilty plea before proceeding to sentencing.

Along with the executed incarceration, Mr. Gibbs was placed on supervised release for the next three years. During that supervision, Judge Faber ordered that Mr. Gibbs receive mental health counseling, not possess any firearms, and have no unsupervised contact with representatives of the Department of Labor as well as the federal judges who had been subjected to threats.

This case was jointly investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Office of Inspector General, Department of Labor, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Trusty.